

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant  
July 2009 Application Guidelines Workshops  
Questions and Answers

Q: The application guidelines state that costs incurred prior to the date of award will not be reimbursed. Is this the date of contract or the date of expenditure?

A: It is the date of the award of the contract, which is the date that the applicant is notified that they will be awarded funding.

Q: Can a jurisdiction apply to all three pots of EECBG?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the date of expenditure for funds that may be used for match?

A: January 1, 2009.

Q: If jurisdictions choose to partner in an application, can each jurisdiction get \$135,000?

A: Yes.

Q: Will there be NEPA coordination with SEPA?

A: The Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance is available to work with applicants.

Q: If you choose to issue general obligation bonds as a part of the funding will grant funds be considered as supplanting because you could have funded the entire project with bonds?

A: No.

Q: When weatherizing a building can you use grant funds for meeting other codes and requirements such as American Disabilities Act requirements?

A: The Department of General Administration's experience with these types of projects is that agencies have not had to use the funds to meet other standards. Whatever is touched by the project is part of the project.

Q: Does NEPA apply to code development?

A: No. Not according to the DOE guidance.

Q: If three cities work together to submit a joint application, would they submit jointly or separately?

A: They should submit one application with one of the cities as the lead applicant. The lead applicant city can subcontract with the other two cities.

Q: What is the larger strategy for these funds?

A: The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy that the state submitted to U.S. DOE as part of its application on June 22. The Strategy is on the Commerce web site.

Q: The tribes have funding set aside separate from this?

A: Yes. They were awarded funding directly from DOE.

Q: Does it matter if energy from renewable energy on a public building is net metered or put back into the grid?

A: No.

Q: Is there a match required?

A: No. But applicants will get points for providing their own funds or other funds as part of the project or program.

Q: Can you use the funds for a retrofit of the lighting in a building with a swimming pool?

A: No. The Recovery Act prohibits the use of funds for swimming pools, gambling establishments, aquariums, zoos, and golf courses. No funds can be used for any activity whatsoever at a prohibited establishment. Any activities at facilities that are adjacent to any of the prohibited establishments and benefit any of the prohibited establishments are also prohibited. We realize this may make it difficult for large single facilities with indoor pools such as schools, but the Recovery Act is clear.

Q: Are the points for scoring on a sliding scale?

A: Yes.

Q: Is NEPA required?

A: It depends upon the activity. Please refer to the guidelines for the list of activities that do not require NEPA review.

Q: Can you use other federal funds with the Block Grant funds?

A: Yes. Other federal funds include Recovery Act funds, can be used.

Q: What about the limit on the use of Block Grant funds for revolving loan funds of 20% or \$250,000, whichever is more?

A: Since the funding limit is \$135,000, that is less than \$250,000, so there is no limit on use of the funds for a revolving loan fund.

Q: If three cities apply jointly, is there only one report to file?

A: Yes. The applicant city would be responsible for reporting.